

Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for facilitating the administration of a subsidiary account within a database contained within a host computer comprising the steps of:

receiving, at said host computer, a request to establish a subsidiary account, said request identifying a parent account, said parent account being a financial account, said parent account having a parent spending power;

establishing, at said host computer, said subsidiary account, said subsidiary account having a subsidiary spending capacity linked to said parent spending power, wherein said subsidiary account is configured to consume at least part of said spending capacity to facilitate payment for a transaction;

reducing, at said host computer, said parent spending power by an amount less than said subsidiary spending capacity; and

establishing, at said host computer, at least one spending limit configured to affect said spending capacity.

2. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed per transaction.

3. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed per day.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed during a predetermined time period.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular merchant.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular chain of merchants.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular industry type.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed in accordance with a predetermined rate of change over time.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, wherein receiving said request comprises:
receiving said request via a means for communication selected from the group consisting of a telephone, a pager, a computer, a digital communications device, a television, a personal digital assistant, and a facsimile machine.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring spending activity facilitated by at least one of said parent account and said subsidiary account; and

modifying at least one of said parent spending power and said subsidiary spending capacity based at least in part on said spending activity.

11. (Previously Presented) A system for administering a subsidiary account within a computing system, said computer system comprising:

an account administrator module in communication with a transaction administrator module;

a settler module; and

a statement generator module,

wherein said account administrator module is configured to:

receive a request from a parent having a parent account,

facilitate an establishment of one or more subsidiary accounts, said subsidiary accounts including a subsidiary spending capacity,

establish at least one spending limit in said parent account, and

affect said spending limit by an amount less than said subsidiary spending capacity,

wherein said transaction administrator module is configured to facilitate transactions decreasing said subsidiary spending capacity,

wherein said settler module is configured to facilitate providing a settling payment to a merchant, and

wherein said statement generator module is configured to facilitate generating a parent account statement.

12. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, said plurality of instructions when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to establish a subsidiary account, said request identifying a parent account, said parent account being a financial account, said parent account having a parent spending power;

establishing said subsidiary account, said subsidiary account having a subsidiary spending capacity linked to said parent spending power, wherein said subsidiary account is configured to consume at least part of said spending capacity to facilitate payment for a transaction;

reducing said parent spending power by an amount less than said subsidiary spending capacity; and

establishing at least one spending limit configured to affect said spending capacity.

13. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed per transaction.

14. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed per day.

15. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed during a predetermined time period.

16. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular merchant.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular chain of merchants.

18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed at a particular industry type.

19. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of establishing said spending limit is based upon a maximum transaction amount allowed in accordance with a predetermined rate of change over time.

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of receiving said request comprises:

receiving said request via a means for communication selected from the group consisting of a telephone, a pager, a computer, a digital communications device, a television, a personal digital assistant, and a facsimile machine.

21. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium according to claim 12, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

monitoring spending activity facilitated by at least one of said parent account and said subsidiary account; and

modifying at least one of said parent spending power and said subsidiary spending capacity based at least in part on said spending activity.